

# MINUTES

—:OF THE:—

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

—:OF THE:—

## Warrior River Baptist Association

—{ HELD WITH }—

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH,

WALNUT GROVE, ALA.,

OCTOBER 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1897.

### OFFICERS.

ALLEN DORMAN, MODERATOR,	-	-	-	-	McLarty, Ala.
O. A. STEELE, CLERK,	-	-	-	-	Oneonta, Ala.
I. T. STEI HENS, TREASURER,	-	-	-	-	Blountsville, Ala.

The next Session will be held with Holly Ford Baptist Church, beginning on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1898.

ONEONTA, ALA.:

SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT PRINTING OFFICE.

1897.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read letters.
2. Elect officers.
3. Call for correspondence.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Appoint temporary committees.
  - (1) On devotion
  - (2) On deceased ministers.
  - (3) On nominations.
  - (4) On letters and documents.
  - (5) On finance.
6. Appoint standing committees.
  - (a) On Sabbath schools.
  - (b) On missions.
  - (c) On temperance.
  - (d) On Orphanage and orphans.
  - (e) On education and ministerial education.
7. Appoint delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
8. Call for report of executive committee.
9. Call for report of missionary.
10. Call for report of committees.
11. Call for report of treasurer.
12. Provide for printing of minutes.
13. Elect executive committee.
14. Miscellaneous business.
15. Adjourn

# MINUTES.

Proceedings of the Warrior River Baptist Association in its 39th annual meeting which was held with Harmony Baptist Church near Walnut Grove, Ala., on Oct. 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1897.

## 1st DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Walnut Grove, Ala., Oct. 15th, 1897.

The Warrior River Baptist Association met this day in its Thirty-ninth Annual Session in Harmony Baptist church building at eleven o'clock a. m., with Moderator Bro. A. Dorman presiding. After devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, the introductory sermon was preached by Bro. S. J. Cox. Text: 4th chap. Mathew, 24th verse. "And His fame went through all Syria." Subject—"The fame of Jesus" The sermon was convincing and strong—It told of how Christ's fame grew—The reason why His name grew famous was also noticed, and then the means for the continued growth of His fame were forcibly presented.

## AFTERNOON SESSION—1:30 p. m.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, and after devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, S. J. Cox, W. Y. Adams and W. L. Culbertson were appointed as reading clerks. Letters were received and the names of delegates enrolled from the churches as follows:—

Antioch—L C Dempsey, J W Pate and F P Smith.

Austin Creek—A L Pass, D M Fowler, D Holly and G E Pass.

Bethel—Jesse Brown, H G B Bynum, J N Holmes and Jasper Webb.

Big Warrior—Not represented.

Blountsville—H W Head, I T Stephens, John R Ellison and John C Hyatt.

Brooksville—J W Jones.

Friendship—V B Hunt, A E C Sims, J J Hughes and J H Nix.

Guins Cove—James Rutherford and W M McAnnally.

Harmony—J A May, W L Ellison, J R Nix, A F Whitley and W A Harris.

Holly Pond—J H Hazlewood, J L Taylor, W H Mitchell, F M Chance and F P Morris.

Liberty—O A Steele, P B Mitchell, R W Buckner, J A Hitt and T A Jones.

Liberty Hill—Dock Campbell, W C Campbell and E M Cox.

Macedonia—A Dorman, Y B Rhodes, J M McCarley and M B Lowery.

Mulberry—R J Davis.

Mt Carmel—W J Blalock, Henry Bellew and O F Buckner.

Mt Pisgah—J J Reese and John Nix.

Mt Tabor—J W Ratliff, Joshua Ratliff and G W Campbell.

Mt Pleasant—T P Pollard, G W Tomlin, J B Goddard and W F

Ray.

New Prospect—Not represented.

Oak Grove—Not represented.

Pine Grove—J W Crumbley, S R Burson, A J Griffin, W A Causey and J T Crumbley.

Pine Bluff—L P Mewborne and R A Tidwell.

New Harmony No. 1—Not represented

New Harmony No. 2—G W Hix, J M Pass Francis Tidwell and J W Ratliff.

2nd. Election of officers then being in order, the association went into said election, which resulted in the election of Allen Dorman Moderator, O. A. Steele Clerk, and I. T. Stephens Treasurer.

3rd. On a call for correspondence, brethren W. Y. Adams and W. L. Culbertson, were recognized as correspondents from Etowah Association.

4th. Bro. W. L. Culbertson was recognized and received in Bro. A. E. Burn's stead, to represent the Evangelistic Work and Missions.

5th. Bro. G. A. Chunn was received as the representative of the Baptist Orphanage, located at Evergreen, Ala

6th The appointment of temporary committees, being next in order, the Moderator, appointed the following temporary committees:

On Deceased Ministers—S. R. Burson, J. K. Nix and J W Pate.

On Prayermeetings—W. A. Alexander, J. A. Hitt, and A. E. C. Sims.

On Letters and Documents—G. A. Chunn, A. F. Whitley, and J. H. Nix

On State of Religion—Jesse Brown, F. P. Smith, and A. J. Griffin

On Devotion—I. T. Stephens, Joshua Ratliff, and the deacons of Harmony church

On Nominations—A. F. Whitley, P. B. Mitchell, and Joshua Ratliff.

7th. The appointment of brethren as delegates to the Baptist State Convention was made as follows,—W. A. Alexander, G. A. Chunn, H. W. Head, H. G. B. Bynum, Allen Dorman, Francis Tidwell, S. J. Cox, A. F. Whitley, J. W. Crumbley, and Joshua Ratliff.

8th. Bro. H. W. Head was appointed as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, and Bro. J. A. May Alternate.

9th. Called for report on Missions, which was read by Bro. J. B. Tidwell, and the discussion of the report was deferred until the following day at 10 o'clock a. m.

10th. Committee on Devotion reported that Bro. Francis Tidwell would preach at 11 o'clock on Saturday.

11th On motion, the Association adjourned until 8 o'clock Saturday a. m. Prayer by Bro. J. B. Tidwell.

OCT. 16th—2nd DAY. 8:30 A. M.

1st. Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator; prayer by W. P. Groover.

2nd. Renewed call for letters from churches—None presented.

3rd. Renewed call for correspondence, when brethren W. P. Groover and James Fowler, were recognized as representatives of the Marshall Association.

4th. The appointment of Standing Committees, being next in order, the following were appointed by the Moderator:—

On Sabbath Schools—O. A. Steele, J. W. Crumbley, and M. B. Lowery.

On Temperance—H. W. Head, S. R. Burson, and H. G. B. Bynum

On Education—S. J. Cox, Francis Tidwell, and G. E. Pass.

On Missions—J. A. May, Joshua Ratliff, and W. A. Alexander.

5th. Committee on State of Religion reported through their chairman, which report was adopted as follows:—

We your committee on the State of Religion beg to submit the following report; we find from the reports of the various churches, that the ingathering has been greater than usual, and yet, not so great as it would have been, if we as christians, would blend our efforts for the Master's cause.

Jesse Brown, Chairman.

6th. On motion, the regular order of business was suspended to allow Bro. F. P. Smith to offer the following resolution, which was adopted, to-wit:—

State of Ala. Blount County, Warrior River Baptist Association in its 29th Annual Session. "We the Warrior River Baptist Association, take pleasure in recommending our beloved Bro. S. O. Howard—to any with whom he may come in contact, as a minister in our association, and in good standing with our body. We also recommend him as a faithful and able preacher and laborer for the Master. We wish for you, and him an acquaintance as pleasant and agreeable as ours has been with him.

F. P. Smith.

7th. On motion, the report on Missions was taken up at 9:10 a. m., and discussed by brethren, J. B. Tidwell, W. Y. Adams, and W. L. Culbertson. After which a collection was taken, amounting to \$9.07. The discussion of this report was continued by Bro. H. W. Head with much feeling, and adopted as follows:—

STATE MISSIONS:—Among the Baptists of Alabama there has ever been a lack of interest in Missions. But as ignorance and prejudice slowly pass away and the work of our State Board is more appreciated, the Missionary spirit is growing. The State Board has hitherto been directing its attention to organizing churches, Sunday Schools and preaching in places of entire destitution. But many of these churches die as soon as the strength of the Missionary is withdrawn. And there has been slow progress in the growth of mission spirit. There are now in the state about 123,000 White Baptist and of these only about 8,000 contribute to missions through organized channels.

Hoping to improve this condition, our last State Convention adopted the evangelistic plan of work. The Board has had employed this year A. E. Burns, North Alabama; J. W. Sanlin, Northeast Alabama; W. A. Parker, Southwest Alabama; A. J. Preston, Southeast Alabama; G. S. Anderson, East Alabama; J. V. Dicklison, Middle and West Alabama; and W. C. Bledsoe, Secretary at large. The prime effort of these evangelists has been to arouse the Baptists to the need of unity of action and systematic work in the fulfillment of our mission. A statistical report of the work for the year is impossible as the convention has not yet met and no full report has been made. But the work in general is very gratifying. Pastors, churches and associations hitherto unknown to the Board are now in full accord with its purpose and plans. Owing the great effort to relieve the Howard and Judson some of our strongest churches have given comparatively little this year so that we need to rally to the Board now. For to it has been committed every interest which Baptist hold dear. Its success means triumph for Baptist principles in Alabama. Yea, more—it means, Alabama for Christ. It means the advancement of the Masters' Kingdom. It means "Peace on earth good will to men."

**HOME MISSIONS:**—The Home Mission Board located at Atlanta, Ga., with Rev. I. T. Tichenor, D. D. as corresponding secretary has charge of the destitution of the territory of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, New Mexico, Indian Territory, Oklahoma, and Cuba. Its work has been to sustain weak churches and locate missionaries wherever it will advance the cause so far as the people will supply the means. At present the Board is sustaining a good work at New Orleans under the leadership of Purser Brothers. It is aiding in the building of churches in Jackson Miss and Pensacola and St. Augustine, Fla. Its missionaries looking among the Germans of Washington, St. Louis and Kansas City. Also work is being done among the negroes of Baltimore, Washington, Atlanta, Richmond, Norfolk, Selma, Raleigh, Columbia and other points. Besides this is the work among mountains and hills on the frontiers and in Cuba. May the Lord help us to do our duty toward this work.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS:**—Our Foreign Mission work is directed by the Foreign Board located at Richmond, Va. with Rev. R. J. Willingham, D. D. as corresponding secretary. We now have in our foreign churches 4,955 members of which 660 have been baptized this year. There are 39 Missionaries in China; 8 in Africa; 3 in Italy; 8 in Brazil; 16 in Mexico; 6 in Japan. Total 80 Besides 110 native helpers. The amount contributed to this Board last year was \$125-581.99 Ala. giving \$6,563.29, about 6 cents per member. We ought Brethren to come up to the help of the Board in this good work. The fields are now white. We need money to send the precious gospel to those benighted ones many of whom are now calling for us to "come over and help them."

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. Tidwell, Chairman.

8th. Report of committee on Education was read by Bro. J. B. Tidwell at the request of Chairman J. A. May, and the discussion of same was postponed to the afternoon session.

The Association adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

11 o'clock a. m.—Preaching by Bro. Francis Tidwell. Text—6th chap. Rom., 23rd verse. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The atonement and scheme of redemption were forcibly presented. Paul's declaration, "The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," was again verified. The presence of the Spirit among the brethren was manifest. At the close of the service, the report came to the association that Bro. L. P. Mewborne, who was a member of the association, and who was present, had lost his

home by fire. At the request of several brethren, the moderator ordered that a collection be taken for the benefit of Bro. Mewbourne. The collection was taken, and \$15 80 were realized and given to Bro. Mewbourne.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION—2nd DAY.

1st. Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator. Prayer by Bro. S. R. Burson.

2nd. Report on Education taken up and discussed by brethren J. B. Tidwell, W. Y. Addams, and adopted as follows:—

Education is no longer a question but a necessity. Upon education depends very largely, not only the safety of the nation but of the church. The world is making great strides toward improved education and educational facilities. And we are glad to say that Baptists are not slow to grasp all opportunities to advance her people. The necessity of denominational education is no longer a question of doubt in the mind of any intelligent Baptist. Education better prepares us to preach and teach the gospel. Inasmuch as it is not in accord with free religious liberty for our state schools to require the study of the Bible, we reaffirm our belief that we are in need of more genuine Baptist Schools. We do not wish to dictate to others whom they shall employ as teachers. But we do insist that our common schools should be taught by men and women of the highest moral and religious characters.

We again commend to the support of our brethren, the time honored Howard College of East Lake and the famous Judson Institute of Marion. These schools are especially fitted for the building up of our Baptist cause all over the land. In the first place in each of these institutions we have a corps of firm, strong and loyal Baptist teachers, versed in all the branches of classical lore. But where our cause of denominational education gains its widest berth is in the fact that these teachers are men and women whose hearts and lives are full of christian graces. Furthermore the Bible the God-given text book of the christians faith and practice is taught in these schools. And to this fact their success and prosperity through the fire and flame which they have come is largely attributable. They are founded upon God and His promises and he has not forsaken them in times of seeming peril and adversity.

We would call the especial attention of the brethren to the education of our Ministry. In these times of specialism, infidelism, and skepticism it is specially needful that we equip our brethren with every possible advantage, so that they may stand against the foe. We hope the association will continue to pursue its past course of helping in this work. And we recommend that Bro. W. A. Alexander again be the beneficiary of the association this year.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. May.

3rd Report on Temperance was read by chairman S. J. Cox and discussed by brethren, S. J. Cox, G. A. Chunn, and W. Y. Adams, and adopted as follows:—

Your committee on Temperance beg leave to report as follows:—This association has from time to time submitted and adopted reports on temperance urging the churches of which it is composed to deal with their members who drink to excess or sign any kind of whisky petitions. We again reaffirm our position and would recommend that the churches use the strictest discipline in regard to intemperate members or even those who drink their dram only as a beverage, as drunkards are principally made by dram drinkers. We believe that the iniquitous and accursed liquor traffic can be disposed of only through the religious and moral influences of the church. We would further recommend that the pastor of each church preach at least one sermon on the subject of temperance during the next associational year.

Respectfully submitted.

S. J. Cox, Chairman.

4th. The report of the committee on Sunday Schools, was made:

the special order of business for Sunday morning at 9 o'clock.

5th. The report of the Committee on Deceased Ministers was received and adopted as follows:—

Your committee on Deceased Ministers, beg to submit the following report:—We should feel very thankful that the Lord has dealt kindly with all of our Ministers, and has spared their lives another year, with the exception of Bro. John Ballard, whom the Lord has called from labor to rest. But we should bow in humble submission to the will of the Lord.

S. R. Burson, Chairman.

6th. Committee on Letters and Documents reported, and report adopted as follows:—

We your committee on Letters and Documents, report that upon examination of the letters of the various churches, that we find nothing to report, which has not been brought out in other reports. G. A. Chunn, Chairman.

7th. The Committee on Nominations, made the following report, which was adopted:—

We your committee on Nominations submit the following as our report—We recommend Holly Pond Baptist church as the place for the holding of the next session of this body and the time of meeting Friday before the third Sunday in Oct, 1898, at 11 o'clock a.m. We further recommend that Bro. H. W. Head preach the Introductory Sermon, alternate H. G. B. Eynum. We also recommend that Bro. J. A. May preach the Missionary Sermon, with Bro. Allen Derman, alternate. A. F. Whitley, Chairman.

8th. The Executive committee, through its Chairman, made the following report:—

We your Executive Committee, submit the following as our report, for the year ending Oct. 15th 1897. Bro. A. E. Burns and Bro. J. A. May did one month's Mission Work in our bounds during the past year, from which, we think, much good has resulted. They visited all our churches, taking up collections and subscriptions at each church. We realized, in cash, \$78.20. Paid A. E. Burns \$20. Balance due on the \$88, promised at the last association of \$9.80. Paid Bro. J. A. May \$23, leaving a balance on hand of \$35, which was paid over to Bro. A. E. Burns, for which, we hold his receipt as a credit to the association for the year 1897. We desire to urge upon the pastors the importance of stirring up their churches on the subject of Missions during the next year and that they take up collections and turn the money over to the Treasurer. A. F. Whitley, Chairman.

9th. The following report of L. F. Stephens, as Treasurer of Association, was adopted—

L. F. Stephens in account with the Warrior River Baptist Association.

Oct. 17, 1896. To Bal. on hand	\$15 67	Amount of Disbursements for all purposes Oct. 18, 1896.	
To Am't Rec'd from Finance Committee for Minutes	29 10	Minute funds to Clerk	\$29 10
State Missions	22 50	Oct. 19, 1896. Paid A. E. Burns	
Foreign „	19 72	For State Missions	68 67
Home „	2 75	„ Foreign „	19 72
Ministerial Education	5 05	„ Home „	2 75
Oct. 17, Collection at Association	11 50	Dec. 7, 1896. Paid A. E. Burns	
„ 18, „	19 02	For State Missions	12 00
Dec. 7. Rec'd from Blountsville church for State Missions	13 00	July 15, 1897. Paid State Mission Board	2 05
July 15, 1897. Rec'd from Blountsville church for State Missions	2 05	Oct. 17, Paid W. A. Alexander	5 05
Total	\$137 86	Total	\$137 86



10th. The following resolution was passed:—

Resolved that it is the sense of this Association that the Executive Committee should provide for a thorough canvass of this association, during the next associational year in the interest of Missions. S. J. Cox.

11. The following report of the Finance Committee was adopted

Your committee on finance has received \$97.27 to be used as follows and divided as below:—

CHURCHES.	MINUTES.	STATE MISSIONS.	FOREIGN MISSIONS.
Antioch	\$2.00	\$3.00	
Austin Creek	1.45	1.25	\$1 25
Bethel	.85	1 25	
Blountsville	1.00	1.00	1.00
Brooksville	1 00	3.00	
Friendship	1.20		6.20
Guin's Cove	.50	1.00	
Harmony	1.50	1.40	1 45
Holly Pond	1.50	1.00	1.00
Liberty	2.45		2.75
Liberty Hill	.75	1.00	
Mt. Carmel	1.00	1.60	
Mt. Pleasant	1 60		
Mt. Pisgah	1.50	1.75	1.85
Mt. Tabor	1 50	3.40	
Mulberry	.75	1.00	1.60
Macedonia	1.05	1.00	.75
Pine Grove	1.50	4.00	3 55
Pine Bluff	.75	.75	
New Harmony No 2	1.50		
	<u>\$25 35</u>	<u>\$27 40</u>	<u>\$21.40</u>
Public Collection for Mewborne			\$14 05
Public Collection for Missions			9 07
Total Minute Fund			25 35
„ State Mission			27 40
„ Foreign ,			21 40
		<u>Total</u>	<u>\$97 27</u>

All of which we have turned over to treasurer and have his receipt. Respectfully submitted, W. L. Ellison, Chairman.

12th. Committee on Prayermeetings as follows:—

We your committee on Prayermeetings, submit the following report—We find from reading the letters from the churches, that but few regular stated prayer meetings are kept up in our churches. We know from personal experience that a regular prayer meeting adds great life and power to a church. And we urge each pastor and the official members of each church to work up if possible, a stronger interest in this line. The Bible makes it our duty to meet often, and to pray with and for each other. And thereby we will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

W. A. Alexander, Chairman.

13th. On motion of Bro. Joshua Ratliff, the Clerk was allowed \$10 for his services in superintending the printing of the Minutes, and sending them to the various churches, paying his own postage, and that the remainder of the minute money be used in paying for the printing of the minutes.

14th. On the election of the Executive Committee, the following resolution was passed:—

Resolved that the present Executive Committee be retained for another year.  
H. W. Head.

15th. The association adopted the following resolution:—

Resolved, by the Warrior River Baptist Association, that hereafter our regular order of business shall include a standing committee on orphans and the Orphanage.  
J. B. Tidwell.

16th. On motion of Bro. S. J. Cox, the Moderator was requested to call the churches by name and ask for pledges to aid Bro. Alexander in going to school. The following churches and individuals responded as follows:—

H. W. Head	\$2.50	Bro. Jones	\$1.00
F. P. Morris	1.00	W. H. Mitchell	1.00
F. M. Chance	50	Joshua Ratliff	1.00
E. M. Cox	1.00	J. D. Goddard	1.00
A. J. Griffin	1.00	Mulberry	2.00
Harmony	5.00	Mt. Pisgah	10.00
Liberty, (Collection to be taken.)			

17th. The following resolution was passed:—

Be it resolved by the Warrior River Baptist Association, assembled with Harmony church in its thirty-ninth annual session, That the hospitality shown us by the brethren and sisters of Harmony church and those in the surrounding community, has not been in the least sparing. Our welcome to your homes has been such that we regret to leave you, but duty calls us away. But as we go, we pray that the blessings of the Good Shepherd may maintain and keep you.  
H. W. Head.

18th. On motion, Bro. G. A. Chunn was allowed thirty minutes to discuss the claims of the Orphanage upon our association, said thirty minutes to be occupied from 8:30 to 9 o'clock Sunday a. m. On motion, the Association adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Sunday a. m. Prayer by Bro. S. J. Cox.

#### SUNDAY, OCT. 17th—MORNING SESSION.

1st. Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, and prayer by Bro. A. E. C. Sims.

2nd. Bro. G. A. Chunn made a very feeling speech in the interest of Orphans and Orphanage, after which, a Standing Committee, on Orphans and Orphanage was appointed, in compliance with a resolution mentioned in paragraph 15 of Saturdays proceedings. Committee—Joshua Ratliff, W. L. Ellison, and I. T. Stephens.

3rd. Committee on Sabbath Schools made their report, which was discussed by brethren, H. W. Head, G. A. Chunn, S. J. Cox, O.

A. Steele and A. F. Whitley, and adopted as follows:—

We your committee on Sunday Schools are glad to report that the Sunday School work is growing in favor with our people about one half of our churches report good schools and from what we know of other churches we believe all are in favor of schools. The same difficulties are in the way that have always existed. There is an opposition to Sunday Schools and this will no doubt continue till the end of time, as will also the opposition to church of Christ. Some of our churches have no members adapted to this work so as to furnish the officers needed. This taken in connection with the fact that these churches only have once a month preaching, leaving the church three-fourth of the time without a leader makes it very difficult to maintain a Sunday School, but we believe as our pastors become more efficient and the churches more enlightened that the difficulties will be overcome and the Sunday School cause will triumph. The fourth district of the association held a celebration with Mt. Tabor school on July 30, with very gratifying results. We would recommend that each district hold a celebration each year and also that this body appoint a Sunday School Convention in which all the districts may meet in the interest of the Sunday School cause. Respectfully submitted,

H. W. Head, Chairman.

4th. On motion of Bro. Joshua Ratliff, the clerk was directed to procure if possible, one minute of each Session of the Warrior River Baptist Association, from its organization to date, and have them present at the next session of this body.

5th. On motion the time and place of holding the Sunday School Convention, were submitted to the Executive Committee, and churches desiring the convention to be held with them, are requested to notify the Executive Committee.

6th. The Minutes read and adopted.

7th. On motion the Association adjourned to the time and place mentioned in the report of the Committee on Nominations, said adjournment to take effect after the preaching of the Missionary Sermon.

8th. After the preaching of the Missionary Sermon by Bro. J. B. Tidwell, with the parable "The Good Samaritan" as a text, a collection was taken for Missions amounting to \$8.09, which was turned over to the Treasurer.

ALLEN DORMAN, Moderator.

O. A. STEELE, Clerk.

NOTE.—Brethren, please bring to the next session of the Association a little more minute money to enable your Clerk, whoever he may be, to furnish you a better minute. CLERK.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in the union and also of all ordained ministers, who are in good standing in their own churches; provided such churches are members of this Association, and shall be known as the Warrior River Baptist Association.

2. Each church shall send a letter to the Association by its messengers, giving the number baptised, received and dismissed by letter, excluded, restored or died during the associational year, total membership in fellowship, time of monthly meeting together with the contribution for minutes and other purposes

3. This Association shall be considered merely an advisory council claiming no authority over the rights and privileges of the individual churches, nor constituting itself an ecclesiastical court to sit in judgment on church difficulties. It is agreed, however that this association may appoint a committee of the body for the purpose of reconciling church difficulties, provided such interference is asked by such confused church, or part of a church, and it is further agreed that the association shall have the right to withdraw fellowship from any church that departs from the faith and order of the Gospel.

4. Each church shall be entitled to send three messengers to this Association and one additional messenger for every twenty-five after the first fifty members; and should any church fail to represent herself, she shall state the reason for such failure in her next letter to the Association.

5. Any baptist church may be admitted into the Association by sending a petitionary letter and messengers. If upon investigation she is found orthodox and orderly, the Moderator shall extend her messengers the right hand of fellowship.

6. The Association shall elect, annually, from the body a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations, preserve order and see that the rules of decorum are faithfully carried out by the members, decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the body, and give the casting vote when the Association is equally divided. The Clerk shall faithfully record all the proceedings of the body and superintend the publication and distribution of the minutes among the churches.

7. This Association may adopt a plan for raising funds by voluntary contributions to defray the expenses of the Association, for supplying destitute churches and settlements in her bounds, with the preaching of the gospel and for any other purpose which she shall deem proper, leaving every church member free to contribute as he shall purpose in his heart. All funds raised thus shall be placed in the hands of the Treasurer, who shall be accountable for the same to the Association and shall disburse it as the Association may direct.

8. This Association adopts the declaration of faith as published in Pendleton's Church Manual, and Mell's Parliamentary Practice Manual as its exponent of parliamentary law.

9. All questions shall be decided by a majority vote, except in case of an alteration of, or amendment to, this constitution.

10. This Association shall elect annually one of her members to preach the introductory sermon, and one to preach on the subject of missions.

11. The minutes shall be read and approved by the body and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association adjourns.

12. This constitution may be altered or amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided the alteration or amendment has been proposed at the previous meeting of the Association.

## DECLARATION OF FAITH. (PENDLETON)

### I. OF THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instructions; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

### II. OF THE TRUE GOD.

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

### III. OF THE FALL OF MAN.

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; be-

ing by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or choice.

#### IV. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION.

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God: who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins: that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

#### V. OF JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secured to such as believe in him is justification, that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

#### VI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.

We believe that the blessings of Salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

#### VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind: that is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

#### VIII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God: whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the ways of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

#### IX. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

#### X. OF SANCTIFICATION.

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

#### XI. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS.

We believe that such only are believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

## XII. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL.

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love to sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

## XIII. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his work; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

## XIV. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

We believe that christian baptism is immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privilege of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

## XV. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

## XVI. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest of good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience and the prince of the kings of the earth.

## XVII. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED.

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

## XVIII. OF THE WORLD TO COME.

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.	SUPERINTENDENT.	OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.	PUPILS.
Blountsville	I T Stephens, Blountsville	7	67
Liberty	O A Steele, Oneonta	7	93
Macedonia	Y B Rhodes, McLarty		
New Harmony No 2	J W Hix, Cleveland		

# STATISTICS OF THE WARRIOR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897

CHURCH.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last Reported	Increase by				Present Membership	Preaching Sabbath.
					Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.
Antioch	Francis Tidwell	F P Smith	Liberty	82	17			2	2	3
Austin Creek	J B Jett	A R Head	Joy	89	6	1	3	1	4	3
Blountsville		John R Ellison	Blountsville	65	3	5	2	14	3	2
Brooksville	Jesse Brown	P G Alldredge	Brooksville		4			10		
Bethel	H G B Bynum			56	1	11	1	9	1	1
Friendship	S J Cox	W A Carroll			8	17	1	7	1	1
Guin's Cove	L Mullens	J F Musgrove	Bangor	19	3					
Holly Pond	J A May	O W Harman	Holly Pond			5		20	10	3
Harmony		W L Ellison	Walnut Grove	113	1	5		6	4	
Liberty Hill		E M Cox	Royal			4	1	7	1	
Liberty	Francis Tidwell	R W Buckner	Oneonta	153	12	4	1	5	1	
Macedonia	W J Collier	M B Lowery	McLarty	58	7	3				2
Mt. Tabor	S J Cox	J W Ratliff	Gum Spring	107	2		1	2	5	
Mulberry	H W Head	E P Dodd	Gum Spring	25						
Mt. Pleasant	J W Crumbley	W D Redman	Hendricks	56	8	7	1	3	1	
Mt. Pisgah	W A Alexander	R R Harris	Nix			3		4	3	
Mt. Carmel	W A Alexander	W R Tidwell	Oneonta		12	9		6	8	
New Harmony No 2	Francis Tidwell	J C Tidwell	Cleveland	73	4	12		1		
Pine Grove	J W Crumbley	J T Crumbley	Oneonta	74	1	11		8		
Pine Bluff	W J Lee	J L Rutherford	Little Warrior	41						4
TOTAL.....				1011	90	93	11	109	44	16
						174			169	237

